

Last May, the Camp honored Pvt. John Afton, the first man buried at Wood National Cemetery. He was from Michigan and was wounded and captured at Gettysburg.

See page 2 for how we again are using a donation from Afton's descendants to help another man with a similar resume.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW



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SERIES 2022

CAMP ORDERS

FEBRUARY 2022

THREE-TIME WINNER OF THE NATIONAL MARSHALL HOPE NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

STAR-SPANGLED RETURN FOR LUNCHEON

The 52nd Annual Patriotic Luncheon returned to being an in-person event, with a presentation by President Abraham Lincoln (Max Daniels).

Lincoln spoke on constitutional conundrums during his time: the right to secede, provisions to put down a rebellion, the writ of habeas corpus, the Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, and much more.

It was a "wow" day all around, with the presentation, seeing old friends for the first time in two years, fine food and of course the fundraising raffle. Photos by Kent Peterson



PCinC Steve Michaels welcomes two special guests from Cleveland, Ohio: PCinC Ken Freshley and his wife, Sue, national Auxiliary chief of staff.

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. PDC Kent Peterson will have the patriotic presentation.

FAMILY DONATION AIDS A FELLOW GETTYSBURG VET

A second man is getting a tombstone via a long and noble trail extending back to a soldier who was wounded and captured at Gettysburg, Pvt. John Afton of the 7th Michigan Cavalry.

Afton died at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home in 1871 and was the first man buried at what is now Wood National Cemetery. We honored him last May, and several descendants from his hometown of Grand Rapids and elsewhere gladly attended.

They gave the Camp a generous donation, and we now have used it twice to honor soldiers who share

his background.

As the Camp Orders reported last August, the first is Pvt. Claude Oellrich of the 9th Michigan Infantry, who died in 1888 and was buried at Calvary Cemetery. His stone finally should arrive this spring.

Oellrich was from Grand Rapids, the same city as Afton. Oellrich, who died at age 62, is buried a short walk from Afton, as long as you hop the fence

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REMEMBERING COL. PIER: A RINGING SPEECH FOR UPHAM

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the February 2002 Camp Orders.

Several hundred veterans packed into Oshkosh's Turner Hall on March 12, 1891. It was the second day of the two-day Wisconsin GAR Department Encampment. At 10 a.m., business turned to the election of officers for the coming year, and two men were nominated for Department commander:

– William H. Upham, a successful lumberman from Marshfield, had founded the city's GAR post and served as its commander for several years. He also had been an aide on the staff of Department Commander Lucius Fairchild. It generally was believed that he would run unopposed and be chosen by acclamation.

– At the last moment, the name of Dr. Oscar Carlson, the Department medical officer, was pushed by Edward Nye, a member of the Council of Administration. Carlson, Nye and C.K. Pier all were comrades in Milwaukee's E.B. Wolcott Post #1.

Pier had bunked with Carlson the night before and knew more than most. He told the encampment that Carlson "is a royal good man. You haven't got any better, but he don't want the commandership this year, and if Commander Nye will wait until next winter, we will have his name right up to the front for commander."

Up until this time, most officers in the GAR had been officers in the Union Army. Pier continued speaking, making a frank argument for Upham, who had been only a private.

"I have heard there was some objection to 'Bill,' common 'Bill' from Marshfield. I hear that he was a private soldier and carried a musket, that he went through battle, that he was wounded and captured and lay in prison for months, and for that reason somebody is going to vote against him for commander of this Department.

"I understand that there are people who say that because he is a Methodist or a Presbyterian, or because he don't belong to any church, it makes no difference, they cannot vote for him. I don't take any stock in that nonsense. Bill Upham, why, somebody says he is high-toned and silk-stockinged and kid-gloved, and everybody that knows him all over Marshfield and all over the state, calls him Bill, and therefore, we must not vote for him.

"My friend Nye and myself have talked this over and he knows better than to do what he has been doing today. We are told that because that private soldier, carrying his musket that weighed nine pounds in the morning and 90 pounds at night, because that man so behaved himself on duty, on the march and in the battle, and somebody without any request on his part suggested that which every soldier likes best, a recognition and a promotion, that because of that, he forfeited his right to be voted for as commander of the Department.

"... If my friend will not object, I move you that the adjutant general of this Department cast the entire vote of this convention for Bill Upham."

Once both candidates' nominations had been seconded and Carlson formally withdrew, Bill Upham was unanimously elected as Wisconsin GAR Department commander.

From Wisconsin Department, Grand Army of the Republic, 25th Encampment Proceedings; and Milwaukee Sentinel, March 1 and March 12, 1891



Bill Upham



LEE REJECTED TURNING TO GUERRILLA WAR



At the February meeting, Patriotic Instructor Bruce Nason presented this piece, compiled from "April 1865: The Month That Saved America," a 2001 book by Jay Winik.

On April 9, 1865, Palm Sunday, at 5 a.m., just beyond Appomattox Court House, Gen. John Gordon's men let out a fierce rebel yell and attacked Union cavalry, driving them back and capturing several guns, then swept forward to the crest of a hill.

Suddenly, below them in the woodlands, they saw a solid wall of blue-clad infantry. Two full Corps of infantry, a blue line stretching nearly two miles wide, were advancing. So were another two Corps, closing in on Lee's rear.

Just after 8 a.m., Gordon admitted that "I fear I can do nothing." An ominous choice finally was set before General Robert E. Lee: Surrender or throw his life into one last murderous fight.

Lee called a meeting with Generals James Longstreet, Bill Mahone and Porter Alexander, Lee's chief of artillery. Talk of another battle soon turned to talk of surrender. Alexander was pleading with Lee not to give up and proposed another tactic, a Confederate trump card, the one most feared by Lincoln, Grant and Sherman: That the Confederates take to the hills and become guerrillas.

That plan was, in fact, proposed by President Jefferson Davis himself.

Guerrilla warfare started before the Civil War even began. John Brown and his band murdered five Southern settlers in Kansas. Confederate Sam Hildebrand roamed southern Missouri, killing dozens of Unionists, and Champ Ferguson terrorized middle Tennessee, knifing, mangling and bludgeoning more than a hundred Federals before he was captured and hanged.

Throughout the war, Missouri was called "the war of 10,000 nasty battles," but it was much more than that – it became a killing field. Missouri produced, perhaps, the most bloodthirsty guerrillas of the war. Topping the list was a 24-year-old teacher named William Clarke Quantrill.

In early 1862, Quantrill and his "bushwhackers" all but paralyzed Kansas, culminating with the infamous raid at Lawrence. Starting at 5 a.m., the raid began with screams of "Kill! Kill!" Within hours the city was in ashes, 200 homes burned and more than 150 men and boys were murdered in cold blood.

Federals and Kansas militiamen pursued the bushwhackers but by the next day they had retreated

to the safety of the hills of Missouri. Federal retaliation was perhaps the harshest by either side during the war, General Order 11. Four counties were "depopulated;" all homes, farms and crops burned. No list of how many people died in the process was kept – although estimates place the number at more than the carnage at Lawrence.

All along in Richmond, Confederate leaders were watching these events carefully. In 1862 they passed the Partisan Ranger Act to legitimize guerrilla organizations. However, as time went on, many Confederate generals and authorities thought the guerrilla tactics distasteful, dishonorable, offensive and injurious to the cause. It was one thing to kill Yankees in battle; another to kill innocent civilians.

However, the day after Richmond fell on April 2, Jefferson Davis called for the Confederacy to shift from a conventional war of defense to a dynamic guerrilla war of attrition designed to wear down the North and force it to conclude that keeping the South in the Union was not worth the pain and sacrifice.

In effect, Davis was proposing that Lee disperse his army before it was finally cornered.

These were the thoughts that played heavily on Lee's mind on April 9. What is honorable? What is right? What is proper?

Lee was confronted with one last chance, one last opportunity. If he were to succeed in guerrilla warfare, his place in history would be assured. However, recalling what had been happening in Missouri, he no doubt realized that a guerrilla war would make a wasteland of all that he loved.

Brother would be set against brother for generations. Such a war would not only destroy Virginia but also the country. For Lee, that was too high a price to pay no matter how much he believed in the cause. He told his council that "the only dignified course for me would be to go to General U.S. Grant and surrender myself and take the consequences of my acts."

Thus, by disregarding the wishes of Davis and his inner circle of advisers, Lee – who surrendered his army later that day – began the process of restoring the Union.

The ultimate fate of nations is often measured and swayed not by large events, but by tiny ones, small and symbolic gestures. Having defeated the gallant Army of Northern Virginia, Grant let his vaunted foe choose the time and place of surrender. It spoke clearly that the North may defeat the Confederate armies, but Grant would not destroy their dignity.

Tombstone – continued from page 2

between the two cemeteries, or figure out how to use the private gate between them.

The second man getting a stone, the Camp decided recently, will be Pvt. Carl Scherer of the 26th Wisconsin Infantry, who was wounded at Gettysburg and received a disability discharge three months later.

Scherer, of Milwaukee, died in 1886 at age 49 and was buried at Forest Home Cemetery – and has been a blank spot in the grass ever since.

His status recently was discovered by another researcher; he told Brother Tom Ludka and Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps, and the Camp acted in double-time fashion.

Scherer enlisted on Aug. 20, 1862, and served in Company C of the 26th. The regiment's story was told thoroughly in the 1998 book "The Sigel Regiment: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865," by James S. Pula.

These two stones are being done in addition to our annual donation of one per year at Forest Home under the Adopt a Soldier program spearheaded by Ludka, Berres and the Forest Home Historic Preservation Association. Auxiliary 4 donates a stone annually, too.

This is a bugle call – for all Brothers to be fans of the Camp's Facebook page.

We have 534 Followers, and always want more – this means YOU and your acquaintances, too

<https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger>

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What was remarkable about the 23rd Ohio Infantry?

A: It had two future presidents of the United States: Lt. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes and Sgt. William McKinley. Hayes was 39 when he was seriously wounded at South Mountain, Md., in September 1862, and McKinley was 19 at that time. Hayes was president from 1877 to 1881 and McKinley from 1897 to 1901, when he was assassinated.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Peter Keepman
- 8 – Tom Remington
- 20 – Phil Olson



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We are at <https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger>
and <http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

The SUVCW is a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3, as per the Internal Revenue Service. Donors thus are allowed to deduct contributions they make to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, if they do not use the standard deduction when doing their taxes.

Report address changes to editor Tom Mueller, PCC, at thewisconsin3800@gmail.com Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service, so you need to report a new address to us.

COMING UP

Here are things to do in the next few weeks as we await spring activities.

Honor your ancestors every day: Any little thing that you can do about the Civil War honors the Boys in Blue and fulfills SUVCW missions: Reading, learning new facts, telling friends that you had a relative in uniform, looking for soldier graves in a cemetery, donating to patriotic causes, thanking current veterans, setting a good patriotic example, etc. Do it.

Spring: This will bring work on Memorial Day and more.

WHERE WE SERVED AND FOUGHT

— A SERIES SALUTING THE ANCESTORS OF CAMP 1 BROTHERS



Moritz Ganser and many other soldiers posed against this painted backdrop at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Mo.

Moritz and his wife, Barbara, had 13 children. Their youngest were 6, 4 and 2 when he died at age 58.



GANSER, Moritz	1836 - 1895
Barbara (Classen)	1849 - 1936



PCC TOM MUELLER'S ANCESTOR: MORITZ GANSER

Was a sergeant in Companies L and E, 4th Wisconsin Cavalry. Began as a corporal.

Enlisted on March 9, 1864, at age 27.

Mustered out on Aug. 22, 1865.

In Ganser's time, the 4th Cav fought at several sites in Louisiana and Mississippi, and was in the campaign against Mobile, Ala.

Before Ganser's time, the 4th fought at Baton Rouge, La., and was part of the siege at Port Hudson, La. On Aug. 22, 1863, the War Department changed its designation from 4th Infantry to 4th Cavalry, the only Wisconsin unit so altered. The war in Louisiana was changing from large battles and sieges into smaller conflicts, and the mobility of cavalry was needed.

See <http://civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unwicav.htm#4thcav>

Mueller's entire research about Ganser is at <https://warbooks.webs.com/mycivilwarrelative.htm>

Born Aug. 10, 1836.

Died Jan. 1, 1895.

Buried at St. Norbert's Cemetery in Roxbury in Dane County, Wis.